

PRINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP  
QUARTERLY MBO PROGRESS REPORT

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Study Feasibility Of Implementing  
~~"Direct-To-Plate" Capability~~  
(Study - PPG/S01/90)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:

STAT

QUARTER ENDING: December 1989

I. ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD:

1. During this reporting period we have redirected our vendor survey. Due to the fact that there are no vendors that can provide us with a truly digital direct-to-plate capability, we have retrenched one step back and are examining the digital-to-film arena. A projection plate-making system, such as our Rachwal System, would then be needed to expose each image in final imposition format.

2. Prepress Branch already has an Autologics Micro Recording Unit (MRU) which exposes text onto 70mm film and then loads it onto the Rachwal System to make plates. The MRU however is extremely slow (60 seconds/page) and does not have the capability to do line graphics or halftones. The FBIS books which are run on the MRU also have to be transferred from our Xyvision nodes to magnetic tape and then read by the MRU.

3. The only firm that discussions were held with was Image Graphics Incorporated (IGI) who was our primary direct-to-plate candidate. IGI manufactures a line of Electron Beam Recorders (EBR's) which record digital data to film. An EBR has several advantages over our MRU. The EBR can produce a text image onto film in a matter of a few seconds, can produce raster, vector, or halftone images, and can be directly linked to an ICL RIP negating the need to write Mag tapes. One additional advantage of the EBR is its ability to accept files formatted in Postscript language.

II. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

None.

**III. PLANS FOR NEXT PERIOD:**

Due to the redirection of our vendor survey, additional vendors for direct-to-film capabilities will be investigated. IGI, meanwhile, will continue to be the center of our attempts to find an intermediary between current convention practices and a truly direct-to-plate system.

Office: DDA/OL/P&amp;PG (PPG/S01/90)

Objective Statement: Study Feasibility of Implementing "Direct-to-Plate" Capability

Responsible Officer: 

O — Scheduled

X — Actual

STAT

Activities Planned	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4		
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
1. Determine & document func. reqs. of Direct-to-Plate system (Completed in March 1989)												
2. Survey industry to identify vendors with direct-to-plate capability and applicability to P&PG reqs. (Completed in March 1989)												
3. Survey vendors to identify those with a reasonable chance of meeting P&PG reqs.			0	-----	0							
4. Prepare efficiency of operation test; conduct test at a site specified by the vendor and record results					0							
5. Prepare final report with recommendations and funding requirements									0			